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14th December 2010

The Honorable Federal Member
Tony Windsor Independent,
Chair Person,
Murray-Darling Basin Plan in Regional Australia
The House of Representatives, Standing Committee,
Regional Australia,
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Dear Tony Windsor,

Thank you for your letter, and
encouragement to make a formal submission
to this enquiry,

Please bear with me, as I will go back
to my boy hood, Born in Dubbo 2nd September
1936 and raised up on a farm near Cummeragwilly.

Farm life is a very different life in comparison
to city and town life,

at the age of 9-10 there were many choirs before
and after school.

My Dad was basically a wheat, Sheep, Dairy cattle,
Poultry, a small orchard of fruit trees, a Bee hive,
and vegetable garden, our water supply was of a
large rain water tank and a windmill that pumped
underground water to watering troughs for the sheep,
gardens, cattle, poultry needs.

A small creek ran through our property.

and across the crewel Highway to the Eumungerie Creek, then to the Coolbaggy, which runs into The macquarie Below Dubbo.

Having outlined my life to possibly 9 years old out choirs, were gardening, seeding the chooks twice daily bringing in the cows in the evening and locking up the cows calves, their mothers left out to feed on Hay that was cut from the crops to form fire reduction areas and then haystacks and Baled Hay for feed, when natural vegetation was scarce.

Out lighting was of kerosene and heating was of wood burning. Out choirs were to pick up bark from under the trees for lighting morning stove, and a supply of wood cut from the wood heap.

My Dad's favourite wood was of Oak.

My Dad rested the paddocks that were of wheat to let the straw go back into the ground and good food for the animals was always present.

About the very early age of 14 my Dad bought a home in Dubbo and my younger brother and myself attended school in Dubbo.

My subjects was woodwork, metal work Technical Drawing maths, Science, English Business Principles and Geography. This was the Basic Foundation to my Life.

I left school at 16 I must say the main subjects I just scraped over, but shone out with the Practical Subjects doing things with my hands.

I Then served my 5 years Indentured apprenticeship with Walmac Constructions, a Division of the Wallace and McGeel, which owned a Hardware Shop Joinery works, Saw mill and the construction Industry which went far and wide. I might mention here the Yunnedah abattoirs, Living conditions away from Home was somewhat a lot to be desired. Concrete, Sewerage, were Done By Hand and excavation with some help to from earth moving machinery.

I Rember the Big Flood in Yunnedah where we all made an airstone, so as they could land an aeroplane to pick up fodder and drop them to the animals stranded in the flood waters.

at the End of my apprenticeship my Boss advised that he had no more work.

I then seeked work on the many Projects, eg. Burrandong Dam Snowey and then won work at Warragamba Dam. where I spent 5 years with the Sydney Water Supply. In October I attended the Fifty year celebration as one of the Thousands who worked on the Project and a recognition was given to us as officially the Dam Builders.

A Lovely Thought from the N.S.W Government.

I felt Quite honoured,

after the five years at that stage work had Dried up and I came back to Gilgandra with my 2 Boys and my wife a very young family we were married Early 1960.

we were fortunate to have some Locals that gave me work, and later encouraged me to start my own Family Building work, Renovations, new Homes. Insurance Work and Dept of Housing maintenance

I Indentured 4 Apprentices to our Staff, employing tradesmen, and was associated ~~with~~ with Architects, Contractors of various trades, and suppliers.

Our Building work survived until 1989 when work dried up I was scaling down at least 3 years before. Pressures were very great to compete with the larger Building Corporations and liabilities were far too high.

my wife left us and joined a religious group The Little Pebble at nowra.

The Pressures were too great for us all and tore the whole Family apart

Early 1990 I started work as maintenance with the St Vincent De Paul, They had bought into The Old Lewersham Hospital as their N.S.W Headquarters.

In 1996 I remarried to a Tongan Lass in Sydney, when only a few months before I was brought down with Profound Deafness in both ears. Due to infections and Industrial Deafness.

Due to this happening I had to stand down from my job at Lewersham. Accommodation was hard to keep up for the two of us.

I could not obtain Housing from the Commission in Sydney. I turned to the ^{Public} ~~Rate~~ office and was able to ~~Rate~~ Rent a Home in Wellington.

The Home a 3 Bedroom, Weather Board Home very poorly maintained, Hot in Summer and Cold in winter.
The Housing Commission gave us permission to Paint and Repair Paint at cost.

We were allowed to level and strengthen Brick work and Put in a car Port

Cawnings of Shade Cloth to the Western Side and Southern Side of the House to cut down climate harshness
year 2001 we had the OK. to have a Rain water Tank
and 2005 we were offered the Home for \$35,000 in which we were able to Raise a Loan.

Since then a further carport to the Eastern Side of the House, Fans ceiling Fans, to all Rooms.
and Air Conditioner to Kitchen and Large conditions in the Front Room.

We have managed to have the Home approximately 10° warmer in Winter and 10° cooler in Summer.

I now will be able to submit Photographs of our Home as it is today.

I will now be able to submit to you various personal Ideas that are very much towards information that may be a help to you in your very contentious and Difficult issue.

To resolve, Some of my thoughts may be way out others I feel could be a Blessing.

Yours Sincerely
Robin Doherty

I now will endeavour to make a Submission that I hope will be of Help.

Firstly I wish to seek your attention in Lake Eyre. The Inland Sea, many Old Farmers saying when Lake Eyre is ~~full~~ full The Rainfall is of abundance when It is Empty Drought Conditions are Strong. I note from People touring the Lake are travelling on the Salt Plane 100 feet below Sea Level. Just a way out thought from the closest Sea Area a Pipe Line from the Sea to the Lakes Bottom and a Pipe Line from the top Sea Level Back again Big enough to cover Evaporation each Day with gates that work with The Tide, Some mathematician may be able to help with this. If it works I am sure Rainfall would Increase.

1) Murray Darling, ample water should be allowed to run to allow it to run to the Sea and feed the Ocean Fish.

2) Water need to be allowed to grow again thus it is a natural Oxygen to regulate the Rivers and Bring Back the Health of the water.

I hope I wont get castigated to pay St Jakes too much water to grow cotton.

Australia is a Jolly Country I do not feel that the Cotton Industry should ever be allowed to take everything. They Destroyed the mississippi in USA and now have come to Australia to Destroy our Murray Darling.

The Cotton Farmers Each Season Spray by
Air Tons of Insecticides and

Selective Herbicides over The Areas. From
more to the Macquarie Basin, It is known to
almost Reach The Delbo District

Rain Water Tanks were all contaminated at Warren
and I feel a lot has reached The Darling River.

The Question Here Do we want the Rivers to Die
and our Land taken over with further Deserts
taking over.

I am aware that it is a very contentious issue,
as it appears to me. The National Party and
Liberal Parties have made Laws and allowed
The multi nationals to do as they like.

Also I would be right to say they have a
very Income Tax Allowances to help them.

My Thoughts are Can these Farmers who are
destroying the environment should very much
be allowed to be Regulated of the Quantity of Production
that allowances to irrigate with a very much
Smaller water supply that the rivers can supply.

In this very Country of Sunburnt Planes, of Drought
and Flooding Rains, I feel we all have
a Responsibility to conserve accordingly to
what is available, and Keep the Rivers
Running, The marshes kept full, and
Healthy Waters full of Oxygen allowed to Run
to ~~the~~ the Sea. again, and Let the Environment
~~have~~ Regenerate to its natural sources.

no more Forests, and Land should be cleared, and let natural grasses encouraged again to make an umbrella to shade and cover the Bare Land and saving the Soil from filling the Rivers, Erosion is I feel very harmful to the Environment, with each year Tons of Soil is Blown away in the Form of Dust.

I really look forward to living long enough to see a solution, and also a recognition of our Responsibilities to bring our Environment Back to Life.

many Projects are under way in Re Generation we must keep all the good work in working order and expand natural vegetation from the Sea to the Desert.

Smaller Holdings I feel could be set up and further in the Production of Food: Cows, Sheep, Wool and Crops that may help in Dry Farming

my Contribution to healthy Living at Wellington

my Home has a Ceiling Height of 2.7m.

Fans have been installed in the Ceilings in all Rooms to circulate the Air

Our Home has ventilators in all Rooms to outside

Rain water of the house 1/2 runs to the Back

1/2 Runs to the Front to Storm water. hanging Tank water used for Drinking and watering Pot Plants to the west side under awning and to the South awning.

many natural Features have embraced these
awning and help keep the House comfortable.
we do have smaller Electricity Bills.

Our Hot water is of Gas. natural.

Our Ceiling is of Batts for Insulation
Possable 40 years old.

I do Encourage Solar Hot Water
and Solar Electrical for Distribution
in all Future Homes

Mind Power we must continue. to adapt.
where ever possible.

a good Environment is a healthy Environment

I do hope that my thoughts will be
a help, and working towards a Healthy
Environment and once again a very Healthy
River Systems all over Australia
Thank you for your Encouragement
Yours Sincerely

Robin Dohnt



Awning at the South of the House
Protects South West Corner
with Passion Fruit
Pot Plants.



Rainwater Tank.
Tank I think 750 gallons.
Water Pot Plants to The South Awning
and Pot Plants to western Side.



Claret Ash Line out Street.

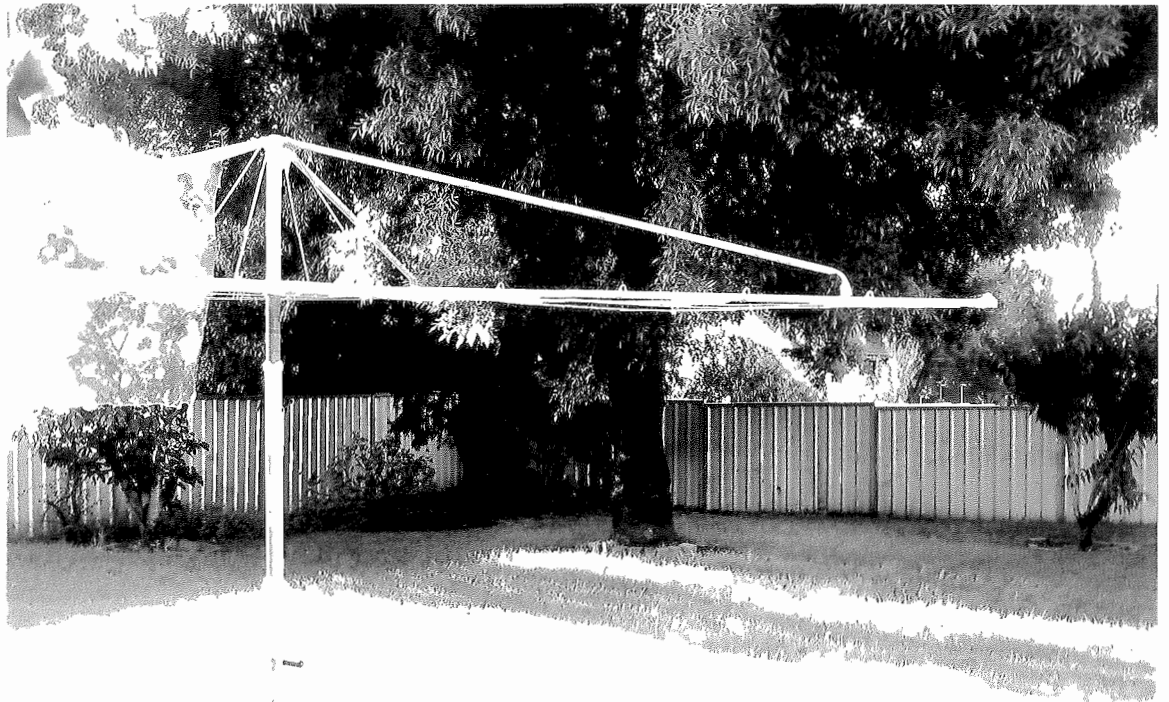
a Project of the Wellington Council

Further Trees have been planted.
making our area a healthier
Town to Live in



Grapes on the Trellis
Shading and Stopping Glass.
South Side of House





Out. S.F. Corner.

Back.

Ledge. ^{claret} ~~something~~ ash. Shades
the Back yard in Summer
and loses its leaves in
winter giving us Sun.



S.W. Corner of our Back yard
Fruit trees are Planted
giving good Shade in the
Evening - ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ Summertime
and Sun in the winter